Vol. VIII. Numb. 37

THE OBSERVATOR.

urther Diſcourſe betwixt the Obſervator *and* Roger, *about the* French *King's rejecting the Preliminaries of Peace. Reaſons to think he may be encourag'd to it, by the* Jacobite *Faction here. Their Inſolence in the* North *of* Scotland. *A* Dutch-*Reckoning the beſt Way to bring the* French *King to Reaſon; which is to add to our former Demands, and iſſue a Declaration at the Head of our Army, offering to reſtore his Eſtates to their former Power, and his Proteſtant Subjects to their Liberty. Reaſons why 'tis thought this may have a good Effect, and to conceive the* French *want only a fair Opportunity to rid themſelves of his Tyranny.*

From Saturday, June 4. to Wednesday, June 8. 1709.

ountry-m. I Want to have ſome farther Diſcourſe with you, Maſter, about the Terms f Peace.

Obſ. Peace, *Roger!* ar't mad? Did'ſt not tell me ſt Day, that the *French* King had refus'd to ſign ie Preliminaries, and that all the Diſcourſe now, as about carrying on the War with more Vigour an ever?

Country-m. Yes I did, Maſter; but I hear ſome eople ſay, that the *French* King muſt come too, r all his Haughtineſs; and that this is only a Coy of his Countenance, in order to obtain an Aatement of the Terms demanded of him.

Obſ. I wiſh thoſe People have good Authority r what they ſay, *Roger*; but if it be ſo, I would ring him in a *Dutch*-Reckoning.

Country-m. What's that, Maſter? I don't underand *Dutch*.

Obſ. Why, *Roger*, if any Man offer to diſpute a eckoning at an Inn or publick Houſe in *Holland*, ie Landlord never fails to bring him in an addiona Bill of ſomething or other that he pretends have forgot; and ſo I would ſerve the *French* ing, *Roger*.

ountry-m. How can that be done, Maſter? I hear ome People ſay, there's nothing forgot; but on e contrary, that there's too much demanded.

Obſ. I make no Doubt, *Roger*, but we have ome amongſt us, who would have him carry off the hole Spaniſh Monarchy, and ſend over his Depuy, the Pretender, to reduce and annex that of *reat Britain*. I wiſh there may be no Encouragement hence, at the Bottom of his Obſtinacy.

Country-m. Why ſhould you think of any ſuch hing, Maſter? I believe *Jacobitiſm* was never at o low an Ebb in *Great Britain*, as at preſent. The opes of that Faction ſeem to be quite blaſted, and aſt Recovery.

Obſ. I will not ſay, *Roger*, that they are well rounded; but I believe the *French* King, and his riends here, are more ſanguine, than to think heir Cauſe quite loſt. The *Jacobite* Principles are ill rampant, her Majeſty's Title, and the Princiles of the Revolution, are as openly combated as ver, as we may ſee by the pretended Replies to Mr. *Hoadly*. The *Jacobites* in the *North* of *Scotland* re all brim-full of Courage, as when the Pretener was upon their Coaſts; they did not long ago x up Libels publickly at *Chanry* in *Roſſe*, reflecting pon a noble Lord of their own Country, and his xcellency the Lord-Lieutenant of *Ireland*; they ew themſelves as implacable againſt the Church f *Scotland*, as eſtabliſh'd by the Union-Act, and ie particular Laws of that Country, as ever; many of thoſe in the Commiſſion of Peace, continue their publick and obſtinate Contempt of her Majeſty's Proclamations and Laws, inſult the Gentlemen of the Country that are firm to her Majeſty's Title, and laugh at all their Efforts to have the Commiſſion of Peace and Lieutenancy in the Hands of ſuch as are known to be firm to her Majeſty's Title, and the Proteſtant Succeſſion, as eſtabliſh'd by Law in the Houſe of *Hannover*. Beſides, *Roger*, you know, that the *Jacobite* Party in both Parts of the Iſland have plotted and invaded hitherto at ſo cheap a Rate, as they have no great Reaſon to be diſcourag'd from continuing the ſame Practices; for, as 'twas juſtly ſaid by a noble Lord, the *French* King has only loſt one Ship and one Friend ſince he attempted the Invaſion; therefore I wiſh, that inſtead of equipping Ships to ſend a Viceroy to *Mexico* or *Peru*, the *French* King may not attempt to ſend a Viceroy elſewhere; for to give his Party here their Due, he has never yet, ſince he was baffled in *Ireland*, given them a fair Opportunity of exerting themſelves for him. They muſt be very great Strangers to Affairs, who do not know, that they ſo much reſented his Neglect of them, as to ſend over Deputies to complain of his not puſhing his Advantage, to make an Invaſion upon us, after his Fleet had ruffled ours off of *Beachy-Head*; and we have no Reaſon to doubt, but they have done the like for his ſending the Pretender only to take a Race upon our Coaſts in 1708.

Country-m. Well, Maſter, and what would you adviſe to be done, in order to prevent this, and to chaſtiſe the *French* King for his new Inſolence and Treachery, in rejecting the Preliminaries agreed to with his Miniſters?

Obſ. 'Tis not for private Men to propoſe, *Roger*, or to give Advice to their Superiors: But you and I may talk a little; therefore, if the *French* King don't, by the Time propos'd, ratify the Preliminaries, I would give it as my humble Opinion, that as he is ſaid to deſign the Publication of the Preliminaries thro' *France* and *Spain*, with Comments to animate his Subjects againſt the Allies, as having made unreaſonable Demands, that he ſhould be puſh'd on all Sides by Sea and Land, and that our Forces ſhould enter his Country with Declarations to inform his People, that they have no Quarrel with them, but with their perfidious Tyrant, and ſuch as ſupport him; and that upon their deſerting his Intereſt, they ſhall be treated as Allies and Confederates, reſtor'd to their former Liberties, and their Meetings of the Eſtates ſettl'd upon the old foot to be Guardians of them; and that ſuch Towns as the Confederates take, ſhall be put into the Hands of the ſaid Eſtates, with ſuch Garriſons as they and the Confederates ſhall agree on, to be a Curb in his Jaws; and that for the Security of having the Edict of *Nantz* reſtor'd, ſome of thoſe Towns ſhall be put into the Hands of his Proteſtant Subjects, 'till their own cautionary Towns be recover'd.

Country-m. You talk big, Maſter. Don't you know, that there lies a ſtrong Objection againſt you, *viz.* That his Subjects are fond of their Chains, and inſtead of wiſhing to be rid of 'em, hug 'em?

Obſ. You ſhall as ſoon perſwade me, *Roger*, that a Man is fond of the Rope he is to be hang'd in. We muſt do the Subjects of *France* the ſame Juſtice we juſt now did our *Jacobites*; and that is, to inform the World they have never yet had a fair Opportunity

portunity given them to be rid of their Slavery; but if they had it, we have no Reason to doubt they would embrace it. And that you may see I don't advance this without Authority, *Roger*, I shall give you some Instances to prove it. The first is, from the late *John Hambden*, Esq; in his *Considerations about the most proper Way of raising Money*, printed about 1692, in which he has the following Expressions: 'In *France* it self, 'which is the Center of Tyranny, and where Mens 'Minds are enslav'd and captivated by the Artifice of 'Priests and scribbling Court Sycophants, there are Peo-'ple, as we see by several Writings, who aspire after a 'Deliverance, and would willingly hazard their Lives, 'and part with what they have most precious, to vin-'dicate their Country from the barbarous and inhuman 'Tyranny under which it groans; and if they were happy 'enough to compass the Execution of so noble and ver-'tuous a Design, they would think no Charge nor no 'Expence too great to maintain those Rights and Privi-'ledges which have heretofore been enjoy'd by their An-'cestors, and of which they have been so unjustly robb'd, 'without any Prospect of Redress, ever since their Kings 'grew strong enough to govern them without assem-'bling the States of the Country. To this Purpose, '(adds that Great Man) I cannot but mention what 'was said to me at *Paris*, ten Years ago, by the Great 'Historian, M. *de Mezeray*, who was a Man of great 'Worth and Vertue, and therefore very ill us'd by the 'Ministry of *France*. *O fortunatos nimium* (said he) *bo-'na si sua norint* Angligenas! O how happy are the '*English*, said he, if they knew their own Advantages! 'We had once in *France* the same Happiness, and the 'same Priviledges which you have; our Laws were 'made by Representatives of our own chusing; our 'Money was not taken from us, but by our own Con-'sent; our Kings were subject to the Rules of Law and 'Reason; but now, alas! we are miserable, and all is 'lost. Think nothing, Sir, too dear to maintain those 'precious Advantages; and if ever there be Occasion, 'venture your Life and Estate, and all you have, ra-'ther than submit to the miserable Condition to which 'you see us reduc'd.

Country-m. I perceive Ministers of arbitrary Principles are Enemies to Goodness and Vertue every where, Master. I wish we in *Great Britain* may for ever be deliver'd from such pestilent Animals. But pray go on.

Obs. Another Proof I shall give you, *Roger*, to shew, that there are many in *France*, Protestants and others, who long for an Opportunity to be rid of their Slavery, is, from the Memoirs of *John Baptist de la Fontain*, who being taken at Sea by one of our Ships, as he and some other *French* Officers were bound to *Ireland*, to assist the late King *James la Fontain*, having been an Officer in a great Post under the late Elector of *Brandenburgh*, a good Soldier, and a Man of Experience, he was thought fit to be attempted by our Court, who were then forming a Correspondance in *France*, to carry a Message to the Protestant Gentlemen of *Poitou*, &c. to endeavour an Insurrection in those Parts, while we should invade *France*; and tho' he prov'd a Knave, as Spies generally do, yet in his Memoirs he gives an Account how readily the Motion would have been embrac'd by the Protestant Gentlemen, &c. in those Parts, had they been sure of Encouragement from *England*: And that the *French* Court was so apprehensive of this, that when he betray'd the Secret to 'em, and they actually sent him to sound the Inclinations of those Gentlemen in the Name of the Court of *England*, they took all possible Precautions to fortify their Coasts on that Side; and rather than irritate the People in those Parts to an Insurrection by Severities upon this Discovery, they chose to clap him up in the Bastile, for his Negociation with them, tho' by their own Order, and publish'd it in the *Paris Gazette*, as thinking it safer to discourage them by that Way, than to provoke them by the other. These Things, *Roger*, which may be found Page 253, &c. of his Memoirs, and the Account he gives Page 249, &c. how fit those Coasts were for a Descent, make it evident, that our Court had good Reason for what they did, and might probably have succeeded, had not the Design been betray'd; which I think is a sufficient Proof, that there's nothing in the Objection you brought as to the Unwillingness of the *French* to contribute to their own Deliverance, if they had a fair Opportunity. And that's what I mean by giving the *French* King a *Dutch* Reckoning, since he disputes the first.

Country-m. In my Country Judgment, there's a great deal in what you say, Master, and I heartily wish it may be try'd. I very well remember how much the Prince of *Orange*'s Declarations animated the People of *Great Britain* to concur with him for their own Deliverance; and I have laugh'd a thousand times at *Dick Baldwin*'s counterfeit third Declaration in that Prince's Name, considering what a Terror it then struck into our Courtiers and Papists; and as we are told, Page 80, Vol. 1. of the *Collection of State Tracts*, printed in 1705, that sham Paper contributed very much to the finishing and hastening the late King's Resolution to leave the Nation, therefore I am of Opinion, Master, that such an authentick Declaration as you talk of, in Favour of the Subjects of *France* in general, and of the Protestants there in particular, might very much contribute to bring about a Revolution in *France*; for when back'd by an Army and Fleet, it would put Life into those poor People, and animate them to join us in recovering their own Liberty: But while there's no Notice taken of those Things, they have Reason to apprehend, that they will be as much neglected at the present Treaty, as they were at the last, which perfectly dispirits them, and makes them indifferent whether their own Tyrant or the Allies have the Advantage, since however it is, they must be continu'd under their Oppression. But enough of this at present, Master. Next time we must take Notice of the Letters sent you relating to Terms to be insisted on in Case of a new Treaty.

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